

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1194

Introduced by Assembly Member Audra Strickland

February 27, 2009

An act to add Title 21 (commencing with Section 99600) to the Government Code, relating to state government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1194, as introduced, Audra Strickland. State agency Internet Web sites: information.

Existing law imposes specified duties on state governmental agencies and provides for public access to government records.

This bill would require each state department and agency to develop and operate an Internet Web site accessible by the public that includes specified information relating to expenditures of state funds, defined to include, among other things, grants, contracts, subcontracts, purchase orders, and tax refunds, rebates, and credits.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 21 (commencing with Section 99600) is
2 added to the Government Code, to read:

3
4 TITLE 21. TAXPAYER TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2009

5
6 99600. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
7 Taxpayer Transparency Act of 2009.

1 99601. (a) The following definitions apply for purposes of
2 this title:

3 (1) “Searchable Internet Web site” means an Internet Web site
4 that allows the public to search and aggregate information
5 described in Section 99602 and is accessible from any department’s
6 or agency’s homepage.

7 (2) “Expenditure of state funds” means the expenditure or
8 transfer of any state appropriated or nonappropriated funds in an
9 amount in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) by any
10 department, agency, office, or entity of state government in the
11 form of, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

12 (A) Grants.

13 (B) Contracts.

14 (C) Subcontracts.

15 (D) Purchase orders.

16 (E) Tax refunds, rebates, and credits.

17 (F) Expenditures from a reserve account for use in the event of
18 any revenue fluctuations.

19 (b) “Expenditure of state funds” shall not include the transfer
20 of funds between two departments, agencies, offices, or entities
21 of state government, or the transfer of state or federal assistance
22 payments to an individual recipient or beneficiary of those
23 assistance payments.

24 99602. (a) No later than July 1, 2010, with assistance from
25 the office of the State Chief Information Officer, the Department
26 of Finance, the Department of General Services, and the Governor’s
27 office, each state department and agency shall develop and operate
28 an Internet Web site, accessible by the public at no cost, that
29 includes all of the following:

30 (1) For each expenditure of state funds, information including,
31 but not limited to, the following:

32 (A) The name and principal location or residence of each entity
33 or other recipient of the funds.

34 (B) The amount of expenditure.

35 (C) The type of transaction.

36 (D) The identity of the department, agency, office, or other
37 entity of state government making the expenditure.

38 (E) The budget program source for the expenditure.

39 (F) A description of the purpose of the expenditure.

1 (G) A description of any item purchased pursuant to the
2 expenditure.

3 (H) Any other information deemed relevant by the Department
4 of Finance, the office of the State Chief Information Officer, the
5 Department of General Services, and the Governor's office.

6 (2) The ability of the user to view information on the Internet
7 Web site in a format that is searchable and that may be downloaded
8 and managed by the user with appropriate software.

9 (3) The ability of users to provide input to each respective
10 department or agency regarding the utility of the site and
11 recommendations for improvements to the site.

12 (b) The Internet Web site shall include information for the
13 2007–08 fiscal year no later than July 1, 2010, and thereafter, the
14 Internet Web site shall be updated and shall include information
15 for the most recently completed month.

16 (c) Each department, agency, and entity of state government
17 shall fully cooperate with the Department of Finance, the office
18 of the State Chief Information Officer, the Department of General
19 Services, and the Governor's office in compiling and providing
20 all information necessary to comply with the requirements of this
21 section.

22 (d) Nothing in this section requires disclosure of information
23 deemed confidential or otherwise exempt from disclosure under
24 state or federal law.